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MEXICAN CUSTOM HOUSES TO BE SEIZED WITHIN FEW HOURS

TO PROTECT RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF UNITED STATES

ACTION IS AIMED AT GENERAL HUERTA AND BLOCKADE WILL NOT AFFECT FOREIGN SHIPS. ATTITUDE OF REBELS IN DOUBT.

FOLLOWING INSULT TO AMERICAN FLAG AT TAMPICO UNITED STATES DEMANDS SALUTE TO STARS AND STRIPES AS APOLOGY. HUERTA REFUSES THE DEMAND AND PRESIDENT WILSON ASKS CONGRESS TO APPROVE A COURSE OF VIGOROUS ACTION.

Washington, April 20.—In forty-eight hours, possibly less, the United States government will have taken possession of the Mexican customs houses at Tampico and Vera Cruz.

Detailed plans for landing of marines at these two important coast towns were completed at a conference at the white house between President Wilson, Secretaries Bryan, Garrison and Daniels, Major-General Wood and Rear Admirals Riske and Blue and John Lind.

"No orders to the army and navy will be issued tonight," was the announcement made after the conference, action being deferred until congress acts on the joint resolution approving the president's purpose of using the armed forces of the United States to enforce its demands against General Huerta growing out of the arrest at Tampico of American blue-jackets.

The resolution passed the house tonight, by a vote of 337 to 37, after a spirited debate. For several hours it was considered by the senate foreign relations committee with prospects of an all-night session of the senate, or a recess until early tomorrow.

The house adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow. President Wilson retired after hearing that the house had adopted the resolution.

Persons in touch with the president said the terms "short of war" which would be taken by the United States were of a nature which would not require formal notification to the powers in the same sense that a declaration of blockade or other preliminaries to war. Foreign governments will be kept informed of developments, however.

The debate in the house brought out the fact that, while the American navy probably would block Mexico off from commerce with the United States it would not interfere with the passage to and fro of foreign vessels, though cargoes discharged on the shore might be held at the customs houses.

During the evening there were informal conferences of Democrats and Republicans and opposition to the phraseology of the resolution was apparent. Many senators, among them a few Democrats, objected to singling out General Huerta as an individual, and wanted to amend the resolution to direct it against the de facto government in the City of Mexico. Others wanted to make the resolution broad enough to cover Mexico generally.

Administration leaders were beginning to rally their forces early in anticipation of Republican opposition.

Administration senators held that the passage of the resolution was a step which would enable the president practically to prevent war by forcing Huerta to respect Americans and their interests.

*The president had made it clear to

congress in his message that the executive really had authority to act, but that he preferred the approval of congress before making any important move.

Members of the house retired instead of waiting for the senate to reconvene. Crowds thronged the senate galleries and corridors.

Against Huerta Only.

At executive quarters there was a let-up in the late hours. Clerks were on duty for emergencies but no movements were announced. A high official who was in conference with the president pointed significantly to the fact that no orders had been issued to the army, and remarked that the Constitutionals need not be nervous over the situation, for the present action was aimed entirely against Huerta. It was said that one of the reasons the white house was insistent on individualizing Huerta in the resolution was to prevent the Constitutionals from misinterpreting present movements as threatening hostilities against them or the Mexican people generally.

With the announcement earlier that the battleships Virginia, Nebraska and Georgia of the third division, had been ordered from Boston to Tampico, it was believed the final orders had been given for the movement of ships on the Atlantic side of the continent.

The receipt late tonight of the statement dictated by General Huerta to the Associated Press saying there was no American flag in the Dolphin's whaleboat brought about informal comment from navy department officials who asserted that Rear-Admiral Mayo had reported the boat as flying the colors of the United States at both bow and stern. In any event, the American government considers the arrest of blue-jackets in American uniform as unwarranted.

Just before midnight Secretary Tamm left the white house for the hotel where Vice-President Marshall lives. Postmaster General Burleson and Secretary Garrison were there and all went to the capital.

By adjourning until 12:10 o'clock the senate had ended the calendar day of Monday and, under the senate rules, a single objection to a report from a committee is sufficient to put the matter over one day.

Paying Out Pension Money.

Clerk of Court C. A. Power has been busy for the past several weeks disbursing the state pension money to the Confederate soldiers. He stated yesterday that he had paid out about half of the money allotted to this county and that he would be glad for the other old soldiers and widows to call for their apportionment.

Salad Peas Bearing.

The advertiser has received from Mr. Jno. E. McDaniel, of Waterloo, several samples of English peas taken from his vines Saturday. They are of a variety called "salad peas" by Mr. McDaniel and have large and fully developed pods. He states that the vines are three feet or more high and are full of blooms and young peas.

Death of Aged Lady.

Mrs. Milinda Cooper died at the home of her son-in-law, Mr. Sam M. Thompson, in Youngs township last week and was buried at Cedar Springs church, in Greenville county, the day following her death. She was a conscientious member of the Baptist church and a devoted Christian.

DEATH OF MRS. A. F. SHERARD.

Had Been a Resident of Laurens for Thirty Years, Living an Exemplary Life.

Mrs. Annie F. Sherard, mother of Mrs. W. H. Gikerson, died at the home of the latter Tuesday night after an illness of several weeks. Mrs. Sherard was the widow of Lieut. William Yancy Sherard, who was killed in battle while fighting around Richmond in October, 1864. She was a native of Cokesbury, now in Greenwood county, and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Hodges. Two children, Mrs. W. H. Gikerson of this city, and Mr. Samuel H. Sherard, of Los Angeles, Cal., survive her. Mr. Sherard was at her bedside when the end came. Another son, Mr. W. Yancy Sherard, died several years ago at Orangeburg. Mrs. Sherard is also survived by the following brothers and sisters, all of Greenwood: Messrs. Geo. C. and Samuel B. Hodges, Miss Julia Hodges and Mrs. A. St. C. Lee. She was 73 years of age. The funeral services were held in

the Laurens cemetery Thursday morning at eleven o'clock, her pastor, Rev. J. R. T. Major, conducting the services and a choir of select voices singing several soft hymns. After the last rites were said younger relatives and friends of the deceased arranged over the grave a mass of beautiful flowers which had been sent by friends. The following gentlemen acted as pall bearers: Honorary, S. G. McDaniel, W. L. Gray, H. Terry, O. B. Simmons, J. P. Bolt, J. P. Tolbert; Active, J. P. Harney, Joe Smith, Edward McCrady, B. L. Jones, A. K. Kinard and J. H. Powe.

Mrs. Sherard was a life-long and conscientious member of the Methodist church and took a great deal of interest in its activities. She assisted in organizing the Ladies' Aid society of the church here and was its first president. She was a woman of lovable traits and admirable qualities. At home and abroad her kindness and gentleness bound friends and relations closely to her and endeared her to many.

FOUR KILLED IN BATTLE

Vera Cruz, April 21.—Vera Cruz tonight is in the hands of forces from the United States warships, but the occupation of the port was not accomplished without loss of American lives.

Four American blue-jackets and marines were killed by the fire of the Mexicans and 20 fell wounded. The Mexican loss is not known; but it is believed to have been heavy. The water front, the customs house and all important piers, including those under terminal works, from which extend the railroads to the capital, have been occupied. All the territory around the American consulate is strongly patrolled and detachments

CHARLES J. BADGER, AT HEAD OF FLEET.



Photo by American Press Association.

As rear admiral in command of the Atlantic fleet Charles J. Badger is the man on whom devolves responsibility for what happens in Mexican waters.

hold other sections of the city.

The Mexican commander, Gen. Gustavo Maas, offered a stubborn resistance to the American advance and for many hours there was fighting in the streets. Towards nightfall it was reported that the main body of the federal garrison was in retreat to the westward.

Rear Admiral Fletcher, commanding the United States warships, proffered his occupation of the port by a demand, through the American consul, W. W. Canada, for its surrender. Gen. Maas promptly declined to accede to this demand and shortly afterward whaleboats were sent off from the side of the Prairie loaded with marines.

Brings Flag Ashore.

These boats effected a landing in the neighborhood of the customs

house before noon and a few minutes later Capt. Wm. R. Rush of the battleship Florida, who was in command of the operations ashore, brought his flag in.

Capt. Rush's men already had taken up their positions. They numbered 150 blue-jackets from the Florida, 390 marines from the Prairie and 65 marines from the Florida. Later these were augmented by a detachment from the Utah.

The coming of the American forces was not heralded by any great excitement, but small crowds gathered to watch the landing. Soon the blue-jackets and marines marched through the streets, leading from the waterfront and along the railroad yards. Others proceeded to the American consulate, while still others were deployed along the approaches to central plaza, in which Gen. Maas had concentrated his men.

These manoeuvres were effected without opposition but suddenly Gen. Maas challenged the advance with the first shots—a volley fired from a point three blocks from the marines and two blocks south of the main plaza. The marines replied immediately, but the action ceased in a moment. There was a lull for ten minutes and then another brief exchange from the west end of Montesenos street, where a federal outpost was stationed.

Prairie in Action.

At 1:30 the firing became general and at 1 o'clock the guns of the transport Prairie went into action.

Prior to this, a detachment of blue-jackets from the Utah, holding the ground between the consulate and the waterfront, opened with two of their three-inch guns. The first shots from these pieces were directed against the ancient Benito Juarez tower which once served as a lighthouse. This was occupied by Mexican sharpshooters. Lieut. Commander Buchanan of the Florida ordered that it be destroyed. Five shots brought the old tower down.

The women of the American colony in Vera Cruz had been placed aboard the chartered steams Esperanza and Mexico, but the foreign colony, especially the American, was greatly augmented this morning when three trainloads arrived from the capital. Some of these remained ashore, but many were taken aboard the steamers. So far as can be learned, no refugees were injured.

The demand for the surrender of Vera Cruz was made at 9 o'clock in the morning. Consul Canada called Gen. Gustavo Maas, commandant of Vera Cruz, by telephone and presented the demands, saying that the United States forces were about to occupy and hold the town. He called upon him to surrender in the name of humanity and assist the Americans in restoring order.

CLUB MEETINGS SATURDAY.

Organizations to be Perfected and Delegates Elected to County Convention.

Acting on the notice of County Chairman Cannon, the presidents of the different democratic clubs of the county have called club meetings for this coming Saturday for the purpose of organizing and electing delegates to the county convention which is to be held Monday, the fourth day of May. As seen by the notices published in the papers of these meetings, they will be held in the accustomed places and at the usual time of day. Each club is entitled to a delegate to the county convention for every twenty-five members or fraction thereof.

ACTIVITY IN REAL ESTATE.

Several Pieces of Property Change Hands in Last Few Days.

Mrs. M. H. Fowler, who recently sold her handsome home on West Main street to Mr. S. M. Wilkes, purchased the house and lot of Mrs. J. A. Austin, on South Harper street, Monday morning. The deal was made through B. M. Wolff, real estate dealer. This property is located in a very desirable part of the city.

Monday morning another real estate deal was made when Mr. T. M. Reeves, navy of Anderson, sold his attractive bungalow on Church street to Mr. M. J. Simpson, passenger and ticket agent at the union station. This sale was also made through B. M. Wolff.

Goes to Union.

Mr. Jeff Taylor, who has been with Davis-Roper Company for a number of years, has accepted a position in the company store of the Union-Buffalo mills at Union. Mr. Taylor will be manager of the dry goods department. He and his family will take up their residence in Union immediately. Their friends here regret to see them leave the city, but are glad to know that the change means a substantial promotion for him.

To Make Commencement Address.

Supt. B. L. Jones has announced that Rev. H. A. McCullough, pastor of St. Pauls Lutheran church, Columbia, has accepted the invitation to deliver the commencement sermon before the graduating class of the high school this year. The sermon will be preached at the First Methodist church on May 25th. As announced in this paper several weeks ago, the commencement orator this year will be Rev. A. G. Wardlaw, of Greer. Supt. Jones states that he feels that the people of this city should consider themselves very fortunate in securing these two divines for these occasions.

Shoots Negro Man.

In a difficulty which occurred at the home of G. Wash Hunter, near Clinton, on the night of April 17th, Joe L. Phinney, a well known white man, shot and seriously injured a negro man. It was reported last week that the negro had died from the effects of the wounds, but later developments proved these reports to be untrue. It is understood that the fight was the result of a dispute over a game of cards.

Agency for the Imperial.

Lavender and Wham is the name of a new automobile agency just established in Laurens. These two young men have secured the agency for the Imperial. They will handle the Little Four, Big Four, Little Six, Big Six and Roadster. They are now displaying a handsome new model of the Imperial.

Off to Convention.

Mr. E. H. Moore, of Lanford Station, passed through the city Monday on his way to Florence to attend the state convention of the Junior Order of Mechanics. Mr. W. P. Thomason joined him here and accompanied him to Florence. Mr. H. Terry, deputy national counselor, left yesterday to attend the convention.

Stores to Close at Six.

We the undersigned merchants agree to close our places of business at 6 o'clock, beginning May 1st, except Saturdays, until Sept. 1st, 1914:

Owings & Owings, Hunter Bros., J. H. Sullivan, Dixie Flour & Grain Co., J. M. Philpot, Bennett & Owings, John A. Franks, Owings & Bobo, Kennedy Bros., A. L. Mahaffey, Todd, Simpson & Co., Dial Company, J. C. Shell & Co., R. C. Gray, Swygert, Nickels & Co., Machen Grocery Co.

COUNTY SCHOOL FAIR WAS GREAT SUCCESS

Over Three Thousand In Parade.

A LONG LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS

The Second Annual School Fair Proved Even Greater Success Than First. Hundreds of School Exhibits and Many Contestants in Literary and Athletic Departments. Schools of County Show Wonderful Progress

Fully three thousand children and as many more parents, patrons and trustees gathered in Laurens Friday for the annual county school fair and field day. From early in the morning until the exercises began the crowds continued to come. The day was an ideal one for such a gathering, not being too cold or too warm, and every advantage was taken to make it profitable as well as enjoyable.

The exercises of the day began at ten o'clock in the morning, all departments being conducted at the same time. In the graded school building the literary contests took place, on the school grounds were held the elementary athletic contests and at the county court house were shown the exhibits in arts and crafts. The successful contestants in the different departments are found below. Special mention should be made however of the splendid arts and crafts exhibits in the court house. A large number of the schools of the county were represented in exhibits in this department and a most creditable display was made. Sandy Springs school was commended by the judges as being the best of all the country exhibits in this department and Rock Bridge, with its excellent exhibit, was a close second. Occupying a prominent place in the court house was the trophy cup won by Laurens county at the state teachers association for having the largest attendance.

As a part of the arts, crafts and handicraft exhibit, Miss Janey C. Garlington had an attractive tomato club exhibit on the court house plaza. This was visited by a large number of interested spectators. Very credit to this exhibit was the model farm exhibit in charge of Prof. Niven, of Clemson college. Here was demonstrated the benefits to be derived from rotation of crops. Prof. Niven had a very attractive exhibit and his time was fully occupied in explaining the advantages of crop rotation.

Rural School Debate.

At two o'clock in the afternoon a debate was held in the school building on the topic "Resolved, that Laurens county should have medical inspection of schools." The speakers were Paul Bobo, Friendship, and Jennice Cox, Youngs, on the affirmative; Annie Mae Donnan, Sandy Springs and M. Wofford, Prospect, for the negative. Rev. R. F. Norris, Dr. W. H. Dial a Mr. Ernest Anderson, of Newbracted as judges. They decided the decision in an unusual, tie address.

High School Athletics.

While the debate was in progress in the school building the high school boys were competing in feats of strength, speed and endurance. Clinton high school carried away the larger part of the honors in this department of the fair and retained the athletic cup won last year. The following were the successful contestants in these events:

One hundred yard dash: Galloway, Clinton; Jacobs, Clinton, Traynham, Hickory Tavern.

Two hundred and twenty yard dash: Galloway, Clinton; Hunter, Gray Court-Owings; Richburg, Clinton.

One hundred and twenty yard hurdle: Jacobs, Clinton; Hunter, Gray Court; Prather, Clinton.

High Jump: Jacobs, Galloway, Clinton; Drummond, Lanford.

Broad Jump: Galloway, \$19.5; Hunter, Jacobs.

Pole vault: Galloway, 9; Prather, Hunter.

Shot-put: Jacobs, 29.10 1-2; Richburg, 29.9; Barnett, Trinity-Ridge, 29. May Pole Dance.

One of the most beautiful events of

(Continued on Page Four.)